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## Project Summary Form

**Project Title:** The Green Thumbs' Worm Composting Project

**School / Organization and Teacher / Leader's Name:** Norview High School/ Sabrina Beach

**Project Outcome (Lessons learned, successes, results, number of youth involved, etc.):**

The worm composting project was a success! The students, teachers, and even the community have learned about vermicomposting systems through our project. In the classroom, we discussed the worm life cycle, soil organisms, waste reduction, and organic farming. The students have even learned how to take measurements of the moisture and PH of the soil and record the data. They have also learned how to turn their kitchen scraps into usable compost for our garden. The worm composter is in our classroom for every student to enjoy. A specific group of six students with disabilities who take a work experience class, help to feed the worms and use the compost produced. In a joint effort with another class for students with disabilities, we have organized a feeding schedule that includes up to twelve students in the feeding process. They have really enjoyed feeding the worms and watching the food disappear. We even displayed our worm composter at the Five Points Community Farm Market in Norfolk one Saturday. While we sold our produce from our spring garden, the students were able to talk to people from the community about their garden and how they use worms to make their garden grow.

**What did the students enjoy the most of this project?**

Our students enjoyed feeding the worms and watching them through the clear composter. When they feed the worms they also have to check the moisture, the acidity, and the activity of the worms. They use a book to record what they see. They also like learning about the worm life cycle. We have recently seen young worms in the composter. This was very exciting. Now that our students have vermicomposting experience, they really take pleasure in talking about it and teaching others.

**How could a similar project be improved? (Lessons learned, etc.):**

After a discussion with an Environmental Science teacher, I have learned that the project could be improved by incorporating students from the environmental club and Earth Sciences classes. We would like to build a larger, outdoor composting system with help from these students. We also plan on giving a worm composting demonstration to some of the science classes around the building.

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MAY 08 2011

# The Green Thumbs' Worm Composting Project



**We are getting ready to feed our worms in the composter!**



**Chaz Floyd, Micheal Raeburn, Meristy Hudson, Isaiah Williams**



Isaiah Williams



Chaz Floyd and Meristy Hudson

**Isaiah and Chaz are holding the book "Worms Eat My Garbage" by Mary Appelhof. We use this book to learn about worm composting.**



**Micheal Raeburn is reading the moisture meter with the help of Sabrina Beach.**



**Micheal Raeburn is getting ready to feed a banana and the peel to the worms.**





**Isaiah, Michelle, and Micheal are adding shredded newspaper to the worm bin. The worms need the paper to help regulate the moisture in the bin.**

**Isaiah Williams, Michelle White, and Micheal Raeburn**





**Paul Kirchenstien is working in a wheelchair accessible garden bed.**



**Chaz Floyd is planting basil in the table top garden bed.**



**Paul Kirchenstien is watering the garden with help from Glenda Smith.**

# Thank you HR Green!

